

## Message Text

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43  
ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 DRC-01 /155 W  
----- 122556

R 131445Z DEC 73  
FM AMCONSUL LUANDA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2385  
INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM  
AMEMBASSY LISBON  
AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES  
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

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EO 11652: N/A  
TAGS: MILI, AO  
SUBJ: SUCCESSFUL MPLA AMBUSH

1. PORTUGUESE ARMY HAS ADMITTED THAT MPLA SUCCEDED IN PULLING OFF A WELL PLANNED AMBUSH AGAINST SMALL ARMY CONVOY NEAR LUVUEI, ON LUSO-GAGO COUTINHO ROAD. ARMY REPORTS AMBUSH, WHICH OCCURRED DURING DAYLIGHT HOURS NOV 15, RESULTED IN 6 KIA AND 23 WIA. ARMY MAKES NO MENTION MPLA LOSSES, AN UNUSUAL OMISSION, BUT MPLA COMMUNIQUE ADMITS 2 KIA AND 2WIA.

2. ARMY, IN ATTEMPT DOWNPLAY MPLA'S SUCCESS, ASCRIBES 3 OF ITS KILLED AND MANY OF ITS WOUNDED TO A PILE-UP WHICH OCCURRED AFTER LEAD VEHICLE WAS HIT BY A BAZOOKA SHELL AND WAS STOPPED. OTHER VEHICLES IN THE CONVOY WERE REPORTEDLY GOING TOO FAST AND WERE TOO CLOSE TOGETHER, RESULTING IN SOLDIERS BEING HIT BY FOLLOWING VEHICLES WHILE DEPLOYING FROM THEIR OWN TRUCKS.

3. THIS AMBUSH MAY BE ONLY AN ISOLATED INCIDENT OR IT MAY MARK THE BEGINNING OF A REVIVAL OF MPLA'S MILITARY EFFORTS

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IN THE ESAT, DORMANT NOW FOR MANY MONTHS. THE ARMY ADHERES

TO THE FORMER VIEW, FEELING THAT MPLA HAS THE CAPABILITY  
TO LAUNCH BORDER CROSSING FORAYS OF THIS TYPE, BUT IS NOT  
YET ABLE TO REINSERT ITSELF INTO ITS FORMER AREA OF OPERATION.  
PORTER

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** COMBAT OPERATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 13 DEC 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** golinofr  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1973LUANDA00664  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** n/a  
**From:** LUANDA  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1973/newtext/t19731227/aaaaatqi.tel  
**Line Count:** 65  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE  
**Office:** ACTION AF  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** golinofr  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 25 SEP 2001  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <25-Sep-2001 by rowellE0>; APPROVED <29-Nov-2001 by golinofr>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** SUCCESSFUL MPLA AMBUSH  
**TAGS:** MOPS, PINS, AO, MPLA  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005